



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/188,702 08/13/98 CLEVER

E 5012-2

EXAMINER

QM12/0805

NORMAN E LEHRER
1205 NORTH KINGS HIGHWAY
CHERRY HILL NJ 08034

CARLSON, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3712

DATE MAILED:

08/05/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/188,702

Applicant(s)
Clever et al

Examiner
Jeffrey D. Carlson

Group Art Unit
3712



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 17, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, and 5 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, and 5 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☒ The drawing(s) filed on Aug 13, 1998 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 6

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the election filed 5/17/99.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because:
 - Why is figure 1's 14A on the hub, not rod?
 - There is no line for 22 in figure 2 at left.
 - Page 6 line 8 states a rod back surface 19, but figure 1 has 19 on the hub.
 - Figure 2, why is 25 on the type 2 side figure and not on type 3? Also, some sort of outline shown be provided to make it clear that these are holes in a piece and not pieces themselves.
 - The following elements numbers are mentioned in the description, but cannot be found in the figures: 10, 16b, 17a, 17b, 18b, 33, 71 and 72.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use

or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Orplast (FR1183331). Orplast shows a connector having holes 6 and 7 separated by a web. Although not required by the claims, the holes 6 and 7 can receive a fingered connector 3/4 from another piece. Orplast also provides central area 5 which can be taken to provide two holes at the sides and an intermediate passage connecting such holes. Again, although not required by the claims, the holes provided at 5 can receive a fingered connector 3/4 from another piece.


Conclusion

Inquiries relating to the status of this application, or inquiries of a general nature (fees, etc) should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Inquiries concerning the merits of this application should be directed to Jeffrey D. Carlson, whose telephone number is listed below. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 to 6:00. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday's.



Jeffrey D. Carlson
July 21, 1999
☎: (703)308-3402



Kien T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner